

"Fox Stand" (Inn)  
On Route 14, north of Royalton,  
at intersection with Route 107  
Royalton Vicinity  
Windsor County  
Vermont

HABS No. VT-37

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### "FOX STAND" (INN)

Location: On Route 14, north of Royalton, at intersection with Route 107, Royalton Vicinity, Windsor County, Vermont

Present Owner: Mrs. Natalie W. Michelson, Royalton, Vermont

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Private residence with antique shop in basement

Brief Statement of Significance: This unusually large hotel on an early stage coach route has some interesting interior features.

#### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

##### A. Physical History:

1. Original owner and builder: Jacob Fox.
2. Date of erection: 1818
3. Architect: Unknown  
Suppliers, builder, etc.: Local
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Unknown
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Original outbuildings, sheds, etc. do not survive. Hardware and windows indicate some alterations by previous owners. A previous owner began to partition off the second-story ballroom, but only erected partition studdings, which were never sheathed. The present twelve-light over twelve-light double hung windows have been installed by the present owner. The concrete basement floor was added by the present owner.
6. References: Evelyn M. Wood Lovejoy, History of Royalton Vermont with Family Genealogies 1769-1911, Burlington, Vermont, 1911, pp. 276-280, 383-384, 795-796, et al.  
Herbert Wheaton Congdon, Old Vermont Houses, Stephen Daye Press, Brattleboro, 1940, pp. 116-120, figs. 85, 86.  
Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes, North, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1956, p. 82.  
Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration, Vermont. A Guide to the Green Mountain State, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1937, p. 232.  
Old Buildings Project of the Robert Hull Fleming Museum at the University of Vermont, Burlington, 1937-1938.  
Mrs. Natalie W. Mickelson, Royalton, Vermont.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Stand--  
"A rather large hotel on a stage coach route" (Herbert Wheaton Congdon: Old Vermont Houses). Jacob Fox, builder of the "Fox Stand," settled in North Royalton, c. 1800, and speculated in land and mills. He opened his first hotel in 1811 and built the present building in 1818. He constantly petitioned the town for permission to build a bridge over the White River. This was granted in 1834, increasing the importance of the route on which his hotel was built. He especially accommodated freight teamsters and cattle drovers. In 1820 Fox had an assessment three times larger than any other in town, but he later lost his fortune through injudicious investments and law suits. Fox's reputation for dishonesty and maliciousness survives in various legends, ranging from his treatment of his three wives to a suspected murder supposed to have been committed on the third floor of this building. Lafayette, during his 1825 visit to Vermont, is supposed to have stayed overnight at the "Fox Stand."

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby  
November 1959

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This unusually large stage-coach hotel has an unusual second-story ball-room, basement kitchen fireplaces, and brick end wall parapets.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. The present owner is restoring the building.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two-and-a-half stories, plus daylight cellar, open at the rear. The main block measures approximately 34' x 60', plus a modern two-car frame garage in the rear.
2. Foundations: Cut granite foundations above grade. Random stone below.
3. Wall construction: Red-orange brick. Thin mortar joints. Flemish bond on front; common bond on sides and rear.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: Granite entrance stoops.

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5. Chimneys: Two large interior chimneys.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Front door: Six panel with side lights and a fan light in a three centered brick arch. South side door: Six panel with 1/2 round fan light. North side door: Four panel with transom light. Rear door leading to cellar.
- b. Windows and shutters: Twelve light over twelve light double hung windows restored by present owner. Timber lintels. No shutters.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, asphalt shingles. Parapet end walls rise above the roof line, sloped at the edges and stepped up to a horizontal center section.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Simple, boxed eaves.
- c. Dormers, cupolas: None

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

- 1. Floor plans: This unusually large rectangular-shaped house is of the central hall type, with two interior chimneys. The second floor has a "ballroom" in the front half of the building, extending the full length of it, with two fireplaces. This room has since been partly partitioned off. The third floor contains many small sleeping rooms, originally for the accommodation of the hotel's guests. The exterior grade is one story lower at the rear of the building, exposing the cellar, which contains two large cut granite fireplaces and originally served as the hotel kitchen.
- 2. Flooring: Wide pine flooring. Modern concrete floor in basement.
- 3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered, painted, papered.
- 4. Doorways and doors: Paneled doors, mostly four panel.
- 5. Trim: Moulded wood trim.
- 6. Hardware: Mostly wrought iron; brass on front door. Some later hardware.
- 7. Lighting: Electric
- 8. Heating: Central heat, plus fireplaces.

D. Site:

1. Orientation: House faces slightly north of east.
2. Enclosures: None
3. Outbuildings: None
4. Walks, driveways, etc.: Flagstone walks. Gravel drive.
5. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal landscaping - trees, lawn, shrubs, flowers.

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